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NORTH WITCHEFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ended
31st December, 1963.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year ending 31st December, 1963.

The Lindens,
Doddington,
March, Cambs.
Tel. Doddington 206.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my report for the year 1963 on the health condition of your district during that period.

I also present the Public Health Inspector's report.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION FOR HEALTH SERVICES.

(1) Public Health Committee.

This comprises the whole Council.

(2) Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health - CECIL THOMAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Public Health Inspector - JOHN METCALFE, M.R.S.H.

(3) Nursing in the Home.

The entire district has the services of Trained Nurses under the control of the Local Authority.

(4) Hospital.

Most Patients are now treated at Doddington Hospital.

(5) Ambulance Facilities.

These are controlled by the County Council.

(6) Child Welfare.

Clinics are held at Doddington and Manea.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of adults engaged on agricultural work continues to decrease with the drift towards factory employment in nearby towns. Seasonal employment on farm work is still available for many members of the female adult population.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	24,701
Population (estimated mid year by Registrar General) ...	4,620
Number of inhabited houses	1,612
Rateable Value	£96,718
Estimated net product of a penny rate	£380

The estimated population for mid year is below the figure for the census return in 1961 which was 4,737.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

Number	52
Rate per 1000 population	11.25

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births 5.76

Still Births.

Number	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	Nil

Total Live and Still Births.. ... 52

Infant Deaths (deaths under 1 year) ... 4

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births..	76.92
Legitimate " " " " legitimate live births	81.63
Illegitimate " " " " illegitimate " "	Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)... 19.23

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births ... 19.23

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births) 19.23

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of deaths.. ...	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births. ...	Nil

Deaths in Area and Causes:

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Syphilitic Disease	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	1	5	6
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	3	6
Coronary disease, angina	5	5	10
Other heart disease	2	4	6
Influenza	1	1	2
Encephalitis	2	4	6
Bronchitis	-	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Congenital malformations	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	5
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
	<u>23</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>54</u>

The death rate for the Rural District in 1963 was 11.68 per 1,000 population, compared with 13.11 for the previous year.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	<u>Total Notified.</u>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Measles	42
Scarlet Fever	<u>1</u>
	44
	<u> </u>

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified in the Rural District during 1963.

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PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1963.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following are the numbers of visits and inspections carried out during 1963.

Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101.
Fried Fish Shops..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.
Factory Acts Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46.
Bakehouses..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.
Sanitary Accommodation..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.
Refuse Dumps	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.
Rats and Mice (including premises visited by Rodent Operator)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49.
Manure and Refuse Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.
Nightsoil Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4.
Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200.
Dykes.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42.
Buildings under Construction and Alteration	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	248.
New Drain and Sewer inspections including tests.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82.
Sewer Tests.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.
Petroleum Installations.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.
Poultry Farms and Piggeries...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.

INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES.

- (1) Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts and Housing Consolidated Regulations (excluding Council Houses).. ... 24.
- (2) Number of houses surveyed for Slum Clearance (Not included in (1)) ... 5.
- (3) Number of inspections for the above purposes (1) and (2) (including re-inspections). ... 43.
- (4) Number of dwellings inspected under Rent Act, 1957 ... Nil.
- (5) Inspections of Verminous or Dirty Dwellings ... 2.
- (6) Number of Inspections and Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ... 35.
- (7) Number of Visits to Council Houses - Repairs, maintenance, and complaints, etc. ... 1,048.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Butchers' Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13.
Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.
Ice Cream Premises (Retail)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.

HOUSING.

The Council did not erect any new dwellings in 1963. Six dwellings were erected by Private Enterprise and one replacement dwelling by Norfolk Council Council Smallholding's Department in the Parish of Manea. Five new dwellings were in the course of construction at the end of the year, two of these being replacement dwellings on a County Council Smallholding owned by the Isle of Ely County Council. The number of new dwellings erected during the year was only equal to approximately 50% of the dwellings demolished, including certain derelict houses.

Summary of the post war development in the District:-

Rural District Council	214 dwellings.
County Council Departments	7 "
Drainage Boards	4 "
Hospital Board	2 "
Private Enterprise	151 "
Private Enterprise (Conversions)	<u>2</u> "
	<u>380</u>

Some further progress was made on Slum Clearance as can be seen from the following figures:-

Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses demolished as result of Demolition Orders or voluntarily by owners.	...	...	...	...	...	13
Closing Orders made...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied						
(1) after informal action by District Council.	...					12
(2) after formal notice by District Council...	...					1
Total number of dwellings demolished or closed during the period from 1st January, 1955 to 31st December, 1963	...	...	...	...	...	121
Statutory Notices served for repairs under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936..	...	...	...	...	...	1

As in previous years, a considerable amount of time is taken up in dealing with repairs and maintenance (including external repainting) of Council houses and 1,048 calls at such houses were made during the year for this purpose.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

There were no applications submitted for Discretionary Improvement Grants in 1963. Two earlier schemes were completed and grants paid out amounting to £505. 8. 6d.

During the same period 16 applications were received and approved by the Council for Standard Grants under the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, as amended by the Housing Act, 1961. The total value of the grants approved amounted to £1,939. 1. 4d. Four of these schemes, together with one earlier scheme were completed during the year and grants totalling £1,067. 19. 9d. were paid, this figure includes three schemes completed too late in 1962 for payment to be made in that year.

The amenities provided under Standard Grant schemes completed in 1963 were as follows:-

Baths	5
Wash Basins	5
Hot Water Systems	5
Water Closets	5
Larders	3

35 inspections (including reinspections) were made at premises in respect of improvement schemes.

No application was received for Grant under Section 46 of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958, in connection with the erection of new dwellings by private enterprise.

BUILDING BYELAWS.

89 plans were deposited with the Council under their Building Byelaws, all of which were approved with the exception of two. One plan was cancelled by the applicant and planning permission was refused by the County Planning Authority for 3 plans. 248 inspections were made of premises in course of erection or alteration, etc. under the Byelaws. 101 inspections were made of new drains under construction, including testing drains at 82 premises. The Building Byelaws operating in the Council's area are similar to the Model issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and came into operation on the 7th November, 1953.

WATER SUPPLY.

The statutory Water Authority for the area is the Wisbech & District Water Board. 10 dwellings on the outskirts of the Rural District are served by Water Undertakings from other areas.

The following information is supplied at the request of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

(i) There has been a plentiful supply of water throughout the area served by Board's mains and there have been no complaints as to quality of the water supplied by the Board.

(ii) Normally routine independent sampling of piped water supplies is not carried out by the Council, as the Water Board's Chemist carries out frequent bacteriological examinations of the mains water at selected sampling points.

(iii) No action by the Council was necessary in respect of contamination.

(iv) The local supply of water is not plumbo-solvent.

(v) Proportion of dwelling houses supplied from public mains:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>No. of Occupied Houses.</u>	<u>No. with mains water.</u>	<u>No. without mains water.</u>	<u>Percentage Connected.</u>
Benwick	226	225	1	99.55
Doðdington	449	437	12	97.32
Manea (including Welches Dam).	480	474	6	98.75
Wimblington (including Stonea).	457	448	9	98.03
	<u>1612</u>	<u>1584</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>98.26</u>

Most of the few houses without mains water are situated remote from the nearest main and it is not economically possible to take the water to them.

For the following schedule of work carried out in North Witchford Rural District during 1963, and Water Analyses, I am indebted to Mr. Cyril Llanwarne, B.Sc.Tech., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, and Mr. J. S. Collins, Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

New Mains Laid.

Chapel Gardens, Lilyholt Road, Benwick. 103 yds. 3" A.C.

New Connections.

Doddington	2
Manea	2
Wimblington	4

Water Analyses 1963 - North Witchford Rural District.

In order to maintain a pure and wholesome supply to the district, frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1963, on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this and adjoining areas. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

Bacteriological Samples taken in the North Witchford Rural District and Adjoining Areas.

Place of Sampling	Total Tests Taken	No. of Tests Negative	No. of Tests Positive	% Negative Tests
March	96	96	-	100%
Doddington	50	50	-	100%
Manea	42	42	-	100%
Totals	188	188	-	100%

DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Most of the houses in the oldest built-up area of Doddington, Wimblington and Manea are served by old combined storm and foul sewers, which discharge into obsolete works or catchpits, and thence to dykes.

The post-war housing estates at Wimblington and Manea have been equipped with modern sewage disposal plants, whilst the new housing estate at Doddington has a septic tank outfall connected with the filter beds forming part of the old sewage disposal works in the village.

The majority of houses which are situated in the unsewered areas of the District are provided with cesspool or septic tank drainage, and the Council operates an emptying service through a Contractor, one free emptying per annum being allowed. There is still a considerable number of houses equipped with pail closets at Benwick and Manea.

Work on the Benwick Sewerage Scheme was delayed owing to the severe weather early in 1963, but once weather conditions improved the scheme was completed and officially opened on the 10th May. 142 yards of 6" glazed stoneware sewer pipes were laid, making a final total of 2,699 yards of 6" sewer for the whole scheme. The Sewage Disposal Works came into operation in late February and house connections commenced during the same month and by the end of the year a total of 88 connections had been made. During the year the Council decided to proceed with the preparation of a new Sewerage Scheme for the village of Manea with a view to the Contract being commenced in 1964.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Nightsoil, which is collected by contractors, is composted with straw for use as manure on arable land. The contracts provide for three collections of closet pails per fortnight, the number of closets being dealt with at the end of the year was 262. The number of pail closets converted to water closets in 1963 was 42, thirty of these conversions were the result of the provision of new sewers in the village of Benwick.

On 18th March, 1963, the Council resolved that as from 1st April, 1964, the Council would cease to empty pail closets and vault closets, cesspools and soakwells at houses in Benwick which were capable of being drained into the new sewers.

Closet Conversions 1963.

<u>Village.</u>	<u>Improvement Grant Schemes.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Benwick	9	24	33
Doddington	-	1	1
Manea	2	2	4
Wimblington (with Stonea)	1	3	4
	<u>12</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>

The following table shows the progress of closet conversions during the past eight years:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Grant Schemes.</u>	<u>Others.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1956	9	25	34
1957	5	21	26
1958	6	44	50
1959	6	14	20
1960	23	21	44
1961	9	4	13
1962	12	14	26
1963	12	30	42
	<u>82</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>255</u>

Cesspools and vaults are emptied upon request from occupiers by one of the Contractors, who uses two cesspool emptiers for this purpose. The contents are either discharged over arable land or disposed at the nightsoil tipping points.

At the commencement of the new financial year the Council improved the collection of tins and indestructible household refuse by stepping up the monthly collection to once every fortnight. The collections are made by Contractors, employing the kerbside method. Disposal is effected in disused gravel pits, where the refuse is periodically covered with soil.

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the Council's district is within a "designated area" for the supply of milk, which in the main is distributed by two firms operating from dairies outside the Council's area.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the Rural District, the seven butchers who have shops in the Area have the animals they purchase slaughtered in the neighbouring Urban Districts of March and Chatteris.

FOOD PREMISES

(i). The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

Grocers, general provision stores and confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakers..	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Fried Fish Shops...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

- (ii). 21 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the area and all the retailers sell prepacked ice cream, which in every case is stored in proper refrigerator cabinets. There are no Dairies in the District.
- (iii). 15 inspections of registered food premises were made during the year.
- (iv). No new educational activity was undertaken during the year.
- (v). Condemned tinstuffs are normally disposed of by burial at the refuse dumps.
- (vi). No examination of whole consignments of food was necessary.
- (vii). There are no ice cream manufacturers in the area.
- (viii). An abstract of the provisions of the new Food Hygiene Regulations 1955/56 has been distributed to all food premises in the district. 33 visits were made to food premises during the year. Byelaws for handling food were adopted by the Council in 1951 under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are no large caravan sites in the area. No site licences were issued during 1963 under Sections 3 and 5 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960. There were only 3 licensed caravan sites occupied at the end of 1963.

RODENT CONTROL

Very few complaints have been received regarding rats and mice. The Council do not possess the necessary staff to carry out rodent destruction work other than that confined to sewer dykes and refuse disposal tips.

Owing to pressure of other work it is not possible to devote much time to rodent control inspections, but all complaints are investigated and the opportunity to check for the presence of vermin is taken when premises are visited in connection with other matters. Good liaison is maintained with the local officials of the Pest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Prescribed Particulars of the Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1 - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4,and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	6	4	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	20	15	1	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	15	27	-	-
Total.....	41	46	1	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found Remedied (2)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (3)	By H.M. Inspector (4)	(5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1).....	2	2	-	1
Overcrowding (S.2)...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)...	-	-	-	-

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.		
	Found	Remedied	Referred To M.M. Inspector:	By H.M. Inspector.	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective drainage to floors (S.6).....	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7).					
(a) Insufficient....	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-	-
Total.....	2	2	-	-	-

PART V111 OF THE ACT
Outwork
(Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers in the district.

J.METCALFE,

Public Health Inspector.

